

Pharisees



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(He/Him/His)

Pharisees and other groups

Pharisee - separated or separatists, “Seekers after smooth things” (Stuckenbruck 603).

Could be a derogatory term but scholarship is unclear

The Apostle Paul identified as Pharisee “with regard to the Law” (Stuckenbruck 604).

Very strict interpretation of the Law regarding Purity and the Temple

Put importance on Oral Torah, unlike other Jewish groups. (Stuckenbruck 604).

Conflicts with Qumran Jewish community.

Positive and Negative Statements

Matthew 5:20 “for I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven”

Matthew 23. 7 ““But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven”

Jewish Annotated New Testament: New
Revised Standard Version

Jesus and the Pharisees

Matthew's Gospel uses the Pharisees' tradition to explain Jesus' new tradition

Pharisees follow the law so strictly to “appear pious and receive honorific titles” (Levine, Brettler 622).

Jesus says their emphasis on practice is taking away from their belief in God

Conflict between Jesus and Pharisees may be post-crucifixion theology moved into a pre-crucifixion context (Levine, Brettler 621).

Pharisees Today

Pharisees rejected working with Romans or other leaders who do not follow the Law

Become prominent Jewish sect after the fall of the Second Temple in Jerusalem (Levine, Brettler 622).

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